

Chapter 357A

Options on NASDAQ 100 Index® Futures

357A00. SCOPE OF CHAPTER

This chapter is limited in application to trading in put and call options on the Nasdaq 100 Index futures contract ("Nasdaq 100 options"). The procedures for trading, clearing, inspection, delivery and settlement and any other matters not specifically covered herein shall be governed by the rules of the Exchange.

357A01. OPTION CHARACTERISTICS

357A01.A. Contract Months, Trading Hours and Trading Halts¹

Options contracts shall be listed for such contract months and scheduled for trading during such hours, except as indicated below, as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

There shall be no trading in any option contract when the Nasdaq 100 Index primary futures contract is limit bid or offered at any price limit except at the Total Daily Price Limit on an option's last day of trading.

There shall be no trading in any option contract during a period when trading in the primary futures contract is terminated pursuant to Rule 35702.I.

For purposes of this rule, the primary futures contract shall be defined as the futures contract trading in the lead month configuration in the pit.

For purposes of this rule, Exchange staff shall have the responsibility of determining whether the primary futures contract is trading at its limit during Regular Trading Hours (RTH). During Electronic Trading Hours (ETH), the determination shall be made by the Globex Control Center.

357A01.B. Trading Unit

The trading unit shall be an option to buy, in the case of the call, or to sell, in the case of the put, one Nasdaq 100 Index futures contract as specified in Chapter 357.

357A01.C. Minimum Fluctuations²

The price of an option shall be quoted in index points. Each .01 index point shall represent \$1.00. The minimum fluctuation shall be 0.25 index points (also known as one tick), equivalent to \$25.00 per contract. Trades may also occur at a price of .05 index points or \$5.00, whether or not such trades result in the liquidation of positions for both parties to the trade. A trade with a price equal to or less than 3.00 index points may also occur at a price in multiples of .05 index points, \$5.00.

Each leg of a combination trade of options contracts shall be traded at a price conforming to the minimum fluctuation. Notwithstanding, options in a combination trade can be traded at an increment of .05 index points regardless of the premium level if the net premium of the options combination is at or below 3.00 index points.

357A01.D. Underlying Futures Contract

1. Options in the March Quarterly Cycle

For options that expire in the March quarterly cycle (i.e., March, June, September, and December), the underlying futures contract is the futures contract for the month in which the option expires. For example, the underlying futures contract for an option that expires in March is the March futures contract.

2. Options Not in the March Quarterly Cycle

For options that expire in months other than those in the March quarterly cycle (i.e., January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November), the underlying futures contract is the next futures contract in the March quarterly cycle that is nearest the expiration of the option. For example, the underlying futures contract for options that expire in January or February is the March futures contract.

3. Options in the European Style Weekly Option Series³

¹ Revised November 2000, December 2001.

² Revised July 17, 2005; January 2007.

³ Adopted October 2010.

For options in the European Style weekly options series, the underlying futures contract is the next futures contract in the March quarterly cycle that is nearest the expiration of the option. For example, the underlying futures contract for the first (1st), second (2nd), fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) April and May weekly options shall be the June futures contract; the underlying futures contract for the first (1st) and second (2nd) June weekly options shall be the June futures contract; the underlying futures contract for the fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) June weekly options shall be the September futures contract.

357A01.E. Exercise Prices⁴

1. Options in the March Quarterly Cycle

The exercise prices shall be stated in terms of the NASDAQ 100 futures.

A referencing index shall be determined each quarter on the day prior to the expiration of the March Quarterly futures contract and shall equal the daily settlement price of the nearest expiring NASDAQ 100 Index futures contract. The chosen referencing index will then be used to determine the strike listing range for all listed contracts. The index points are rounded to the nearest integer.

At the commencement of trading, the Exchange shall list all exercise prices in a range of 30 percent of the referencing index above and below the previous day's settlement price of the underlying futures contract that are integers divisible by 10 without remainder, e.g. 1500, 1520, 1530, etc.

Thereafter, when a settlement price in the underlying futures contract occurs at, or passes through, any exercise price, the Exchange shall add, on the next trading day, all eligible exercise prices in the corresponding range. New options may be listed for trading up to an including the termination of trading.

Exchange Staff, under delegated authority from the Board may modify the provisions governing the establishment of exercise prices as it deems appropriate.

2. Options not in the March Quarterly Cycle

Exercise prices for options not in the March quarterly cycle listed for trading shall be identical to the exercise prices that are listed for the March quarterly options on the same underlying futures contract. For example, the exercise prices listed for the January contract shall be identical to those listed for the March contract.

3. Dynamically-Listed Exercise Prices

Upon demand and at the discretion of the Exchange, new out-of-current-range exercise prices at regularly defined intervals may be added for trading on as soon as possible basis.

4. Options in the European Style Weekly Options Series⁵

At the commencement of trading, the Exchange shall list all exercise prices within 25 strikes above and below the previous day's settlement price of the March quarterly options on the same underlying futures contract that are integers divisible by 10 without remainder, e.g. 1210, 1220, 1230, etc.

Exchange Staff, under delegated authority from the Board may modify the provisions governing the establishment of exercise prices as it deems appropriate.

357A01.F. Position Limits

No person shall own or control a combination of options and underlying futures contracts that exceeds 10,000 futures-equivalent contracts net on the same side of the market in all contract months combined.

For the purpose of this rule, the futures equivalent of an option contract is 1 times the previous business day's IOM risk factor for the option series. Also for purposes of this rule, a long call option, a short put option, and a long underlying futures contract are on the same side of the market; similarly, a short call option, a long put option, and a short underlying futures contract are on the same side of the market.

357A01.G. Accumulation of Positions

For the purposes of this rule, the positions of all accounts directly or indirectly owned or controlled by a person or persons, and the positions of all accounts of a person or persons acting pursuant to an expressed or implied agreement or understanding, and the positions of all accounts in which a

⁴ Revised March 1999; December 2000, December 2001; July 2005, November 2005, April 2008, September 2008.

⁵ Adopted October 2010.

person or persons have a proprietary or beneficial interest, shall be cumulated.

357A01.H. Exemptions

The foregoing position limits shall not apply to commercially appropriate risk reducing option positions defined in accordance with Regulation §1.3(z)(1) of the CFTC and meeting the requirements of Rule 559 and shall not apply to option positions subject to Rule 559.

357A01.I. Termination of Trading⁶

1. Options in the March Quarterly Cycle

For options that expire in the March quarterly cycle, options trading shall terminate at the same date and time as the underlying futures contract.

2. Options Not in the March Quarterly Cycle

For options that expire in months other than those in the March quarterly cycle, options trading shall terminate on the third Friday of the contract month. If that day is not a scheduled Exchange business day, options trading shall terminate on the first preceding business day. In the event that the underlying futures market does not open on the scheduled expiration day, the option expiration shall be extended to the next day on which the underlying futures market is open for trading.

3. Options in the European Style Weekly Options Series⁷

For options in the European Style Weekly Options Series, trading shall terminate at 3:00 p.m. Chicago Time on the Friday of the named week of the contract month.

For the first (1st) weekly option of the month, if the first Friday of the month is a scheduled Exchange holiday, the option shall terminate on the first business day immediately preceding the Friday. However, if the first business day immediately preceding the Friday falls in the preceding calendar month, the first weekly option shall not be listed for trading.

For the second (2nd) weekly option of the month, if the second Friday of the month is a scheduled Exchange holiday, the option shall terminate on the first business day immediately preceding the Friday.

For the fourth (4th) weekly option of the month, if the fourth Friday of the month is a scheduled Exchange holiday, the option shall terminate on the first business day immediately preceding the Friday.

For the fifth (5th) weekly option of the month, if the fifth Friday of the month is a scheduled Exchange holiday, the option shall terminate on the first business day immediately preceding the Friday.

357A01.J. Contract Modification

Specifications shall be fixed as of the first day of trading of a contract except that all options must conform to government regulations in force at the time of exercise. If the U.S. government, an agency, or duly constituted body thereof issues an order, ruling, directive, or law inconsistent with these rules, such order, ruling, directive, or law shall be construed to become part of these rules and all open and new options contracts shall be subject to such governmental orders.

357A02. EXERCISE

In addition to the applicable procedures and requirements of Chapter 7, the following shall apply to the exercise of Nasdaq 100 Index options.

357A02.A. Exercise of Option by Buyer⁸

357A02.A.1. Options Not in the European Style “End-of-Month” Series

An option may be exercised by the buyer on any business day that the option is traded. To exercise an option the clearing member representing the buyer shall present an exercise notice to the Clearing House by 7:00 p.m. on the day of exercise.

An option in the March quarterly cycle that is in the money⁹ and has not been liquidated or exercised prior to the termination of trading shall, in the absence of contrary instructions delivered to the Clearing House by 7:00 p.m. on the business day following the termination of trading by the

⁶ Revised December 2001.

⁷ Adopted October 2010.

⁸ Revised August 2004.

⁹ An option in the March quarterly cycle is in the money if the Final Settlement Price of the underlying futures contract lies above the exercise price in the case of a call, or lies below the exercise price in the case of a put.

clearing member representing the option buyer, be exercised automatically.

In-the-money¹⁰ options that expire in months other than those in the March quarterly cycle and have not been liquidated or exercised prior to the termination of trading shall, in the absence of contrary instructions delivered to the Clearing House by 7:00 p.m. on the day of the expiration by the clearing member representing the option buyer, be exercised automatically.

Corrections to option exercises may be accepted by the Clearing House after the 7:00 p.m. deadline and up to the beginning of final option expiration processing provided that such corrections are necessary due to; (1) a bona fide clerical error, (2) an unreconciled Exchange option transaction(s), or (3) an extraordinary circumstance where the clearing firm and customer are unable to communicate final option exercise instructions prior to the deadline. The decision whether a correction is acceptable will be made by the President of the Clearing House, or the President's designee, and such decision will be final.¹¹

357A02.A.2 Options in European Style Weekly Options Series

Following the termination of trading of an option, all in-the-money options shall be automatically exercised by the Clearing House. All out-of-the-money options shall be abandoned by the Clearing House on the day of expiration for the option. Whether an option is in or out of the money shall be determined based on the fixing price of the CME E-mini NSDAQ 100 stock index futures on the day of expiration, determined pursuant rule 359.A02.A.2.

An option is deemed in the money if the fixing price of the underlying futures contract lies strictly above the exercise price in the case of a call, or lies strictly below the exercise price in the case of a put. For example, if the fixing price were 1250.01 or higher, then 1250 Calls shall be exercised. If the fixing price were 1250.00 or lower, then 1250 Calls shall be abandoned. Similarly, if the fixing price were 1249.99 or lower, then 1250 Puts shall be exercised. If the fixing price were 1250.00 or higher, then 1250 Puts shall be abandoned.

357A02.B. Assignment

Exercise notices accepted by the Clearing House shall be assigned through a process of random selection to clearing members with open short positions in the same series. A clearing member to which an exercise notice is assigned shall be notified thereof as soon as practicable after such notice is assigned by the Clearing House, but not later than 45 minutes before the opening of trading in the underlying futures contract on the following business day.

The clearing member assigned an exercise notice shall be assigned a short position in the underlying futures contract if a call is exercised or a long position if a put is exercised. The clearing member representing the option buyer shall be assigned a long position in the underlying futures contract if a call is exercised and a short position if a put is exercised.

All such futures positions shall be assigned at a price equal to the exercise price of the option and shall be marked to market in accordance with Rule 814 on the trading day of acceptance by the Clearing House of the exercise notice.

357A03. ACTS OF GOVERNMENT, ACTS OF GOD AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

(Refer to Rule 701. – ACTS OF GOVERNMENT, ACTS OF GOD AND OTHER EMERGENCIES)

357A04. - 29. [RESERVED]

FLEXIBLE OPTIONS

357A30. SCOPE OF FLEXIBLE OPTION RULES

Unless otherwise noted below, the following flexible option rules supersede the standard option regulations presented in the earlier part of this chapter.

357A31. FLEXIBLE OPTION CHARACTERISTICS

357A31.A. Nature of Flexible Contracts

Flexible options on Nasdaq 100 Index futures shall be permitted in puts and calls that do not have the same underlying futures contract, and the same strike price, and the same exercise style, and

¹⁰ An option that expires in a month other than those in the March quarterly cycle is in the money if the settlement price of the underlying futures contract at the termination of trading lies above the exercise price in the case of a call, or lies below the exercise price in the case of a put.

¹¹ Adopted August 1995.

the same expiration date as standard listed options that are already available for trading.

Trading in standard options under certain flexible trading procedures shall be permitted prior to the listing of such options in the standard options pit or on Globex. Once and if these options are listed for trading as standard options in the standard options pit or on Globex, they will be traded only as standard options in the standard options pit or on Globex subject to the standard option trading requirements. Upon such listing, all existing open positions established under flexible trading procedures shall be fully fungible with transactions in the respective standard option series for all purposes under these regulations.

357A31.B. Trading Unit¹²

The minimum size for requesting a quote and/or trading in a flexible option series is 10 contracts, where each contract represents an option to buy, in the case of the call, or to sell, in the case of the put, one Nasdaq 100 Index futures contract as specified in Chapter 357. However, parties may request a quote and/or trade for less than 10 contracts in order to entirely close out a position in a flexible series.

Respondents to a request for quote must be willing to trade at least 10 contracts. However, a respondent may trade less than 10 contracts if the respondent is entirely closing out a position in the series.

357A31.C. Minimum Fluctuations

(Refer to Rule 357A01.C.—Minimum Fluctuations)

357A31.D. Underlying Futures Contracts

The underlying futures contract for a flexible option shall be any Nasdaq 100 Index futures contract that is currently available for trading, as specified in Chapter 357.

357A31.E. Exercise Prices

Exercise prices shall be stated in terms of the Nasdaq 100 Index futures contract that is deliverable upon exercise of the option and may be at intervals of .05 for all Nasdaq 100 Index levels from .05 through 999.95, e.g., 590.00, 590.05, 590.10, etc. However, for a Request for Quote (RFQ), strike prices may be stated in .05 Nasdaq 100 Index points (futures ticks) relative to the underlying futures contract.

357A31.F. Position Limits

(Refer to Rule 357A01.F.—Position Limits)

357A31.G. Accumulation of Positions

(Refer to Rule 357A01.G.—Accumulation of Positions)

357A31.H. Exemptions

(Refer to Rule 357A01.H.—Exemptions)

357A31.I. Termination of Trading¹³

Flexible option expiration dates may be specified for any scheduled Exchange business day up to and including the day of determination of the Final Settlement Price of the underlying futures contract. If a flexible option expiration occurs on the same day as the day of determination of the Final Settlement Price of its underlying futures contract, flexible options trading shall terminate at the same time as the underlying futures on the business day immediately preceding the day of determination of the Final Settlement Price of the underlying futures contract. Otherwise, flexible options trading shall terminate at the close of trading on the expiration date specified for the flexible option. In the event that the underlying futures market does not open on the scheduled expiration day, the option expiration shall be extended to the next day on which the underlying futures market is open for trading.

A new flexible option series may be opened on its last day of trading and may be traded on its last day of trading.

357A31.J. Contract Modification

(Refer to Rule 357A01.J.—Contract Modification)

¹² Revised March 2000.

¹³ Revised December 2001, Revised December 2007.

357A32. EXERCISE

In addition to the applicable procedures and requirements of Chapter 7, the following shall apply to the exercise of flexible options on Nasdaq 100 Index futures.

357A32.A. Exercise of Flexible Option by Buyer

Flexible options may be specified to have either American-style or European-style exercise.

A flexible option with American-style exercise may be exercised by the buyer on any business day that the option is traded and also on its expiration date. To exercise the option, the clearing member representing the buyer shall present an exercise notice to the Clearing House by 7:00 P.M. on the day of exercise.

A flexible option with European-style exercise may be exercised by the buyer only on the day that the option expires. To exercise the option, the clearing member representing the buyer shall present an exercise notice to the Clearing House by 7:00 P.M. on the day of exercise.

Any flexible option that is in the money and has not been liquidated or exercised prior to its expiration date shall, in the absence of contrary instructions delivered to the Clearing House by 7:00 P.M. on the expiration date by the clearing member representing the option buyer, be exercised automatically.

357A32.B. Assignment

(Refer to Rule 357A02.B.—Assignment)

357A33. ACTS OF GOVERNMENT, ACTS OF GOD AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

(Refer to Rule 701. – ACTS OF GOVERNMENT, ACTS OF GOD AND OTHER EMERGENCIES)

357A34. INITIATING A FLEXIBLE OPTION CONTRACT SERIES ¹⁴

For each trading session, the opening of trading in any flexible option series shall occur through a Request For Quote (RFQ). No RFQs will be accepted within fifteen minutes of the daily scheduled closing time of the underlying futures or within fifteen minutes prior to the termination of trading of the underlying futures.

357A35. RESPONSE TIME INTERVAL ¹⁵

No trades against the first RFQ submitted for a flexible option series on any trading day may occur immediately upon acceptance of an RFQ by the designated flexible option pit official. The designated flexible option pit official shall signal the end of the Response Time Interval for each RFQ.

357A36. RFQ TRADING INTERVAL ¹⁶

A flexible option series shall immediately open for trading following the first RFQ submitted for such flexible option series. Priority for RFQs is determined by order of submission to the RFQ official, except that all RFQs submitted before the open shall be treated equally.

357A37. EXPIRATION OF AN RFQ

Trading in a given flexible option series following an RFQ shall remain open for the remainder of the trading session.

357A38. REPORTING OF FLEXIBLE OPTION TRADES

It shall be the responsibility of the participants in a flexible option trade to report the quantities and prices to the designated flexible options pit official in a timely manner, including any later trades in open flexible contract term series.

(End Chapter 357A)

¹⁴ Revised October 1997.

¹⁵ Revised December 2007.

¹⁶ Revised December 2007.

**INTERPRETATIONS AND SPECIAL NOTICES
RELATING TO CHAPTER 357A**

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